

Calcoin News

Bulletin of the
California State Numismatic Association

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Long Beach Convention Plans Complete

The seventh semi-annual convention of the California State Numismatic Association to be held at the Wilton Hotel in Long Beach Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Nov. 10, 11, and 12, will, generally speaking, follow the plan of previous conventions.

Registration will begin Friday afternoon and will continue through Sunday morning. Displays will be placed Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Friday evening will be devoted to a numismatic forum under the direction of Charles L. Ruby.

Auctions will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and business sessions will be called at 10 a.m. on both days. The regular banquet will be held Saturday evening at 7 o'clock and the luncheon at 12 noon Sunday. All activities of the convention will be housed in the Marine Room on the second floor of the hotel.

Kenneth Lee will be in charge of the dealers' bourse. The usual charge of \$10 for a table with two cases will be made. Dr. Calvert L. Emmons and Elmer O. Hess will be in charge of members' displays. In order that all may have cases, members will be limited to three cases each, until it has been determined that all have cases who want them. Members wishing to make reservations for cases may do so by writing to Emmons or Hess.

Displays will be classified as U.S., foreign, and ancient, and ribbons for first, second, and third places in each category will be awarded. In addition, there will be a special award for any display of an unusual nature, and ribbons for all members who exhibit.

Dealers wishing to make displays may do so, but will not be eligible for awards nor permitted to make sales from such displays.

Judging of displays will be done by



HOTEL WILTON

CALCOIN NEWS

Bulletin of the California State
Numismatic Association

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David L. Redfield - J. R. Stewart

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registered members attending the convention, who will vote by secret ballot for the exhibits they judge to be best in each classification.

The registration fee has been set tentatively at \$6. Reservations for hotel rooms should be sent directly to the hotel.

Material for the auction can still be included by S. J. Kabealo. Anyone with duplicate and surplus coins, or who wishes to dispose of all or part of his collection should contact Kabealo at 2216 E. Colorado Ave., Pasadena 8, Calif. One of the purposes of the auction sale is to give

36 CSNA Members Attend ANA Convention

The 59th convention of the American Numismatic Association, held at the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee Aug. 25-29, was perhaps one of the most unusual held in recent years. To begin with, the weather was cool with overcast skies, in marked contrast to the heat usually experienced at that time of the year.

With the exception of the registration desk, which was on the fourth

members the opportunity to list coins if they so desire.

Final convention plans were made by officers and committee members at a meeting in Long Beach Sept. 17. Present were Ralph Mitchell, Charley Kiser, Lew Panosh, and Stew Bingham, officers; Dr. Calvert Emmons, J. R. Stewart, and Everett Ostrom, directors; Sam Kabealo, Elmer Hess, Vreeland Fraser, Joe Steele, Kenneth Lee, Dr. Bruce Wallace, Eugene Johnston, and Mesdames Bingham, Panosh, and Hess.

Long Beach, the convention city, is known affectionately as the "capital of Iowa" because a great number of its people were originally from that state. It is famous as a vacation spot, and with its Rainbow Pier and Pike is a California version of Coney Island and Atlantic City all in one. It is California's fifth largest city. Black gold — oil — was a big factor in the early growth of Long Beach and as one enters the city, he will see ample evidence of this fact in the world-famous Signal Hill area.

Only a few minutes from the Wilton Hotel are golf and tennis courts, country clubs, smart shops, and theaters. Two blocks away is picturesque Lincoln Park, location of beautiful Long Beach Library and quaint open air market.

Less than an hour away from the Wilton are California's famed Hollywood Bowl and theaters, Olvera St., center of Mexican Village, Chinatown, Radioland, the motion picture studios, Rose Bowl, Griffith Park Observatory and Greek Theater, Catalina Island, and three of America's great race tracks, Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, and Del Mar.

Sightseeing tours by bus, limousine, airplane, or your own car are arranged at the travel bureau in the Wilton lobby.

floor, all activities of the convention were held in adjoining rooms on the fifth floor; bourse, displays, meeting rooms and banquet hall all being together, making for convenient movement from one activity to any other.

The spirited, in fact almost heated contest for all officer positions with the exception of second vice-president, resulted in the reelection of all incumbent officers by a roughly 3 to 1 vote. Capt. O. H. Dodson, professor of naval science at the University of Illinois, replaced Vernon Brown on the board of governors. Mr. Brown was not a candidate for reelection. The CSNA is thus again represented by Charles Ruby of Fullerton on the board and by Leonel C. Panosh of San Diego as second vice-president.

CSNA members who received awards for displays were John Ohls of San Francisco, second award in the educational division; and Emil Johnson of San Diego, third award for originality in display. Honorable mention was won by Christian M. Petersen of Chehalis, Wash.; Sol Kaplan of Cincinnati; Michael A. Powills of Chicago and Frank Smith of Wheaton, Ill.

CSNA members serving on committees were Christian Petersen, resolutions committee; Karl Brainard, chairman of the elections committee; and Mrs. Leonel C. Panosh, chairman, and Mrs. Thelma Case and Mrs. Karl Brainard, proxy committee.

There were 25 registrations from California representing 17 CSNA members, who with 19 out-of-state CSNA members made a total of 36 at the convention. California registrants were:

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Brainard, Santa Monica; Mrs. Thelma Case, Santa Monica; Dr. and Mrs. C. L. Emmons, Ontario; Mr. and Mrs. Emil Johnson, San Diego; Mr. and Mrs. Abe Kosoff and family, Beverly Hills; Mr. and Mrs. John E. Ohls, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Leonel C. Panosh, San Diego; Mr. Earl A. Parker, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Patterson, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Don Searle, Hollywood; Mr. William Sexton, Santa Maria; Mr. Howard Smith, Redlands; Mr. Charles L. Ruby, Fullerton; and Mr. and Mrs. Garrit Wiers, Long Beach.



Who's Who In California Numismatics

◆
RALPH A. MITCHELL
◆

Ralph A. Mitchell, Bakersfield, has one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of odd and curious media of exchange in the United States. His collection is exceeded only by a few institutional stocks.

Mitchell, who is president of the California State Numismatic Association, is beyond doubt the best-known collector on the Pacific Coast. He personally is acquainted with nearly every numismatist in California. In addition to his state affiliations and activities, Mitchell has held office in the American Numismatic Association. He has made more than 125 coin exhibits and lectures on odd and curious media of exchange to local clubs.

As a boy, Mitchell collected match covers and bird eggs. His yen for coin collecting began when, at the age of 12, his grandmother gave him a few old coins.

Born Sept. 26, 1903, at Bloomington, Ind., Mitchell moved to California in December, 1919. He was graduated from high school at Madera in 1924 and attended Fresno State College for two years. During that time he was interested in, but actually did not collect many coins, being hampered by a situation common to many students — lack of money.

"My main interests in school in

those days were football and girls, and frankly, I didn't care too much about football," Mitchell reflects. "So when I broke my collarbone in the opening game of my second year at Fresno State College, I gave up the idea of higher education and went to work. I expect to complete college after I retire. Perhaps I will be the only coin collector attending college with his two sons."

Mitchell worked for a chain grocery in Tulare in 1926, and it was then that he formed his first date set of large cents. In 1929 he was employed by the Tidewater Associated Oil Co. in Fresno and at present is on leave of absence to operate the "world's largest truck terminal" in Bakersfield.

He was married to Miss Ruth M. Henry, daughter of a Strathmore, Calif., orange grower, Sept. 18, 1932. The Mitchells have two sons, Henry Preston, 2½ years old, and Paul Douglas, age 5 months.

Ralph has one brother, Paul, who operates a chain of restaurants in Decatur and Macomb, Ill.

"Like most collectors, my interests have changed over the years," Mitchell says. "I have 'specialized' in practically every series of coins collectible. Sometimes this specialization lasted a few weeks and sometimes a few years. At present, I am interested principally in crown-size coins of the world, paper money of the world, odd and curious media of exchange, types of all countries for all periods, metallic and paper Chinese money, Philippine guerilla currency of World War II, Swedish plate money, German and Siamese porcelain, multiple thalers, encased postage stamps, embossed store cards, and hard times tokens."

Mitchell belongs to the American Numismatic Society, the American

California Club News, Views, and Whos

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB. — Because of holidays, vacations, and the fact that many of our members planned to attend the national convention, no August meeting of the club was held.

Thirty-six members and guests met at 8 p.m. July 12 at Harvelle's Restaurant, Santa Monica. Karl Brainard presided.

Among guests present were B. Max Mehl, nationally-known dealer of Fort Worth, Tex., and Max M. Schwartz of Brooklyn, N.Y., past district secretary of the ANA and currently president of the American Vecturist Association (organization of token collectors).

Schwartz gave an exceptionally interesting talk on street car tokens. He pointed out that token collecting is comparatively expensive but highly instructive from a geographical standpoint, and can extend to any city in the world where street cars are or have been used. Considerable research and ingenuity are necessary to form a collection, particularly of tokens no longer in use.

Mehl took part in an informal discussion, during which he answered many questions and recounted some

Numismatic Association, the California State Numismatic Association, and more than a dozen local clubs. He is a life member of the ANA, joining that organization in 1936, and is a charter member of the CSNA. He was ANA district secretary for Northern California from December, 1939, through November, 1943. He was second vice-president November, 1943, through August, 1947. As second veep, he was chairman of the District Secretaries club. He was chairman of the Resolutions committee at the annual ANA convention in San Francisco last year, and also was master of ceremonies.

Mitchell is a past president of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, San Francisco.

Elected president of the CSNA in the spring of 1949, Mitchell is serving his second year in that office. He has been emcee at two state conventions. His ready wit plus his wide acquaintance throughout the state have made him a demand speaker.

of his experiences with collectors. He also spoke of well-known rare coins which he has handled.

—H. S. Davidson.
* * *

CAPITAL CITY COIN CLUB, Sacramento. — The California State Fair at Sacramento Aug. 31 to Sept. 10 had among several hobby exhibits, a coin display by the Capital City Coin Club.

Coins displayed were representative of all phases of coin collecting. Special cases made by Virgil E. Whitcomb were effective in that they were sloped to give the displays a better appearance.

The state fair is embarking on a new building program, which will include a special hobby building. The Capital City Coin Club looks forward to having more space and better facilities for displaying coins. Coin organizations can help the Capital City Coin Club by participating. It is hoped eventually to have a state-wide competition for state fair awards.

—Roy Hill.
* * *

EAST BAY COIN CLUB, Oakland. —Earl A. Parker and John Ohls reported on highlights of the ANA convention in Milwaukee at the club meeting Sept. 8 in Jenny Lind Hall.

Exhibitors were Parker, U.S. proof sets, 1950 Vatican set in plastic, Bolder book on dollars, and Shih book on modern Chinese coins; Roy Hill, literature on the San Francisco mint; Walt Ritchie, 1949 coin of Formosa; Bill Poizner, miscellaneous coins; and Clifford Bloom — some more gold.

Coffee and cake were served after the meeting.
* * *

HANFORD COIN CLUB. — The Sept. 5 meeting was held in the beautiful new home of Fred Schaffer, 2200 18th St., Kingsburg, at 8:20 p.m. Clarence Berry, vice-president, presided.

The meeting, which included the ladies, was social in nature.

Ralph Mitchell was appointed entertainment chairman for the Octo-



ber meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fish and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Shaw will be in charge of refreshments.

The club realized \$3 from the attendance drawing, and 69 cents from the auction. Everett Ostrom won the attendance prize.

Coffee, cake, and ice cream were served by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schaffer and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ostrom.

At the meeting Aug. 1, held at 1117 N. Irwin St., Hanford, at 7:40 p.m., the Hanford Coin Club went on record endorsing the proposed plan that ballots for ANA officers be sent to an independent agency for counting, and that proxy votes be eliminated.

Coins were passed around, and members judged their condition. Clarence Berry, Merrill Cole, Albert Prinz and Mrs. Edwards scored 100%.

The attendance drawing netted the club \$3.25, and the auction, 85 cents. Ralph Mitchell won first prize with a plastic holder of proof coins. Sandwiches and coffee were served by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hess and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Geyer.

The July 7 meeting was held at Peden's Cafe at 7:40 p.m. Vernon Jantzen played accordion and piano solos. Pres. Forest Speck won the attendance drawing. The club received \$4 from the drawing and 55 cents from the auction. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hess and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Geyer served refreshments.

—Fred E. Tinkham.
* * *

LONG BEACH COIN CLUB. —

The second and third meetings of the Long Beach Coin Club were held July 18 and Aug. 15, respectively, being called by Pres. Riley Brown.

The constitution was changed to allow immediate acceptance of new members and to allow coin dealers to hold office.

Joe Steele and Riley Brown were auctioneers at the meetings, and bidding was lively.

Twenty-one members and two guests attended the second meeting. This included five new members. Eighteen members and two guests attended the third meeting, and three new members were signed. Prizes were awarded holders of three lucky numbers. Coffee and doughnuts were served after the meeting.

Two lucky guys, Al Wilkinson and Riley Brown, are on vacation, so

John C. Yribarne will be acting president and secretary at the next meeting, to be held the third Tuesday of this month, 7:30 p.m., at 951 Locust Ave., Long Beach, the regular meeting place.

Officers of the Long Beach Coin Club are Riley W. Brown, president; John C. Yribarne, vice-president; Alfred F. Wilkinson, secretary-treasurer; and W. H. Buttrum, Stanley E. Johnson, Harold McCabe, J. M. Munson, and A. E. Watson, board of governors.

—John C. Yribarne.
* * *

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB.

— Seventy-eight members and guests attended the 145th meeting June 28 in the Woman's Clubhouse, Brea. Abe Kosoff, Beverly Hills, spoke on "U.S. Rarities," describing the rarest coins in each series.

He said that in the Adolphe Menjou public auction which he had just conducted, dimes proved to be the most popular series. The 1873CC dime, without arrows, brought a record price of \$3650. Kosoff said that this is the only specimen known to be owned by a collector, and that this was the first time since 1915 that it had changed hands. The 1894S dime brought \$1850.

Other coins in the Menjou sale mentioned by Kosoff were the very rare trade dollars of 1884 and 1885, the 1815 and 1819 half eagles, the 1841, 1854S and 1863 quarter eagles, the 1884, 1924S and 1926D double eagles, and the pattern quintuple stella which sold for \$3400. The 1841 quarter eagle was bid in at \$4300. The Menjou sale brought a total of \$134,000.

—Calvert L. Emmons.

* * *

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, San Francisco. — The 414th meeting of the PCNS was held Aug. 30 at the James F. Waters auditorium, 1355 Van Ness Ave., with 23 members and guests present.

A movie, "Flight to Paris," showing Paris as it is today, was shown by courtesy of Air France. Sidney Haas' talk on coins of the early French era was comprehensive and instructive, and included French pronunciations and English translations of the various denominations.

French coins were displayed by Haas, Lesley Lodge, Paul Snedaker, Clifford Bloom, Erich Werling, and Kurt Loret. Two books for the li-

brary on "The Coinage of the Umayyads of Spain," by George C. Miles, were displayed together with a certificate of award from the ANA for participation in National Coin Week. A 1915 Panama Pacific round \$50 gold coin in gem condition was passed around for inspection by Mrs. Harry Cutler.

R. L. Moore reported the treasury is in a considerably improved status. Pres. Clifford Bloom announced that unless meetings have an attendance of 50 persons, the Waters auditorium will no longer be available, and that a return to a hotel location would seem advisable. A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

After the auction the meeting adjourned about 10:45 p.m.

ANA slides of regular issue type coins were shown at the July 26 meeting. Clifford Bloom was narrator and Paul Snedaker, projectionist.

Ralph Mitchell, CSNA president, displayed uncirculated and proof foreign silver coins and a square 4-inch vase with coin imprints in the glass. F. E. Howard and Robert Illing were guests.

Commander H. F. Bowker told of his interest in assisting a Chinese in China to get his very large coin collection into the U.S. for exhibition. Written invitations from coin clubs in America will be helpful in enabling him to get a passport.

Displays: William G. Wilson, 1940S cent with flat-bottom "O"; R. L. Moore, half dollar and cent mistakes; Rudy Gjurovich, parade trophy won with a coin club float; Mrs. Harry Cutler, Maccabean shekels and a Confederatio cent; Roy Hill, 1859S silver dollar, Panama-Pacific Exposition admission tickets, **Numismatists** of 1895 and 1906, and booklet of the National City Bank of New York, "The World's Silver Dollars"; Clifford Bloom, British guinea of 1752 and five pieces of Colonial currency.

The 412th meeting of the PCNS was held June 28. The club celebrated its 35th anniversary with a banquet at Lucca's Restaurant in the International Settlement, old location of the once-famed Barbary Coast.

George C. Ruge, general foreman of the coin and pressroom at the San Francisco mint, a guest, led group singing of "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here," and read a poem he had

written especially for the occasion. He told of the slackened demand for domestic coins.

Basil Brandon, charter member, was present. He has never missed an anniversary meeting since the society was founded June 25, 1915.

Display and auction were dispensed with, but door prizes were given, courtesy of S. M. Koepfel, Los Angeles, and Mrs. Harry Cutler.

The Junior Coin Collectors of San Francisco were represented by Robert Illing, president; Tom Twohey, secretary; and Dennis Olswang. The juniors will celebrate their 16th anniversary in October.

The table setting was festive, with beautiful floral decorations and favors. Those on the committee were Mrs. Eula Jacobsen, Mrs. Alice Redfield, Mrs. Bettie T. Duncan, Mrs. Harry Cutler, Mrs. Anna C. Wilcox, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Knabenschuh. Charlie conducted the activity in his usual enthusiastic manner, which added much to the fun.

—Mrs. Harry Cutler.

* * *

REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB,

Santa Rosa. — Main business of the club at the August session was to change the meeting night from the last Monday to the third Tuesday of each month.

The July meeting was held at the home of Guy Chapman. Chapman has a fine collection, and has many coins such as Indian head cents that other members are permitted to buy at face value. Mrs. Chapman served refreshments of ice cream, cake, and coffee.

This meeting had no special speaker, but had it been a week sooner, Ralph A. Mitchell, CSNA president, would have given a talk. Mitchell arrived here to attend the meeting which he thought was on the fourth Monday, rather than the last Monday of the month.

Mitchell, Henry Wrede, and Gerald Hudson met at the home of the writer for the evening, and examined coins. Mitchell displayed a group of foreign commemoratives, hard time tokens, leather and paper money. Hudson showed silver and gold articles which he brought from India, birthplace of Mrs. Hudson. The Hudsons met and were married in India, and all their wedding presents were lovely hand-made ones from

India. Later in the evening, refreshments were served.

Mitchell's visit was greatly appreciated, as we seldom get to view other collectors' coins except those of William Smith and Earl A. Parker of San Francisco, members of our own club who are responsible for the club getting off to a good start.

The club plans a big meeting after the vacation season, when Mitchell will return to speak and exhibit parts of his fine collection.

The club placed 15th in organization coin week competition in the nation, and was led in California only by San Diego. This was a boost to members' enthusiasm for National Coin Week participation. Henry Wrede was chairman of the affair, and the report to the ANA was prepared by Mrs. Wrede. We feel that part of our high score was made through her work. Credit also is due Guy Chapman, J. Rogers, William Morgan, and others.

—Gerald L. Hudson.

* * *

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB. — The annual banquet of the San Bernardino County Coin Club will be held Friday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA, West "C" St., Ontario. Dr. Calvert Emmons is in charge of the program. Dr. C. Glenn Curtis, Brea, will be principal speaker. There will be special music, an auction, and coin exhibits by members. Ham and chicken dinners will be served.

—Fred W. Coops Jr.

* * *

SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. — The July meeting, held at the New Palace Hotel July 3, brought out a surprisingly large attendance, considering the date, between Sunday and July 4.

There being no planned program, discussion was general concerning the forthcoming ANA convention, which Mr. and Mrs. Emil Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh were planning to attend. Atwood MacDonald announced that the San Diego Numismatic Society had placed ninth with its National Coin Week display.

Following a short auction conducted by Dr. Bruce Wallace, refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

The Aug. 7 meeting brought out another good attendance. Feature of the evening was the display by each

member present of his or her favorite coin, with a short talk telling how it was acquired and why it holds particular interest for the collector.

—Leonel C. Panosh.

* * *

SAN JOSE COIN CLUB. — Coins were exhibited in a small but comprehensive coverage of the numismatic field at the Santa Clara County Fair in San Jose, Sept. 11-17, and were viewed by more than 191,000 persons. Extra publicity on the fairgrounds was obtained by having highlights of the coin exhibit mentioned twice in the Daily Fair News-ette.

The exhibit space was small, but an effective arrangement of coins was made in a showcase provided by member Floyd Mohr and refinished by Syl C. Tully Jr. The wall was "dolled up" with numismatic paraphernalia and paper money was displayed in stamp frames borrowed from the San Jose Stamp Club.

Exhibits: Vincent Guarnera, foreign paper money and notgeld paper money of the German inflation period in the early '20s; Roy Hill, ancient Greek and Roman coins, including an archaic type obol from Miletus about 550 B.C., tetradrachms of Athens circa 400 B.C., large Russian coppers, including a 5 kopek overstruck for 1865 by Catherine II, numismatic post cards.

George F. Hodges, ancient Greek and Roman coins, including second bronzes of Nero, Tiberius and Agrippa, two of the world's smallest minted coins, the Panama "pill" — 2½ centavos silver of 1904 and a Travancore copper cash, and one of the 40,000,000 Philippine pesos which was dumped into Manila Bay upon the fall of Corregidor.

Charles V. Kappen, Siamese porcelain "money," Irish gun money made from old church bells, kitchen utensils and disused cannon, a complete collection of uncirculated and proof U.S. small cents, beginning with 1856, freak U.S. cents, ancient coins, unusual coins, and a half-won, large size, from Korea.

Mrs. George F. Kohl, crowns of the world, a series of U.S. types (except gold) of the past century, 1850-1950, when California was progressing to its present position as second largest state in the nation, and a selection of coins of many countries; Syl C. Tully Jr., English halfcrowns, Charles I,

1644 to George VI, 1947, 18th century halfpenny tokens of England struck by private concerns and towns in England, 1787 to 1797.

Roy Hill.

G. F. Hodges and C. V. Kappen told how they became coin collectors at the meeting Aug. 7. Reports from the secretary, treasurer, and the auditing, program, and county fair committees were heard. C. V. Kappen exhibited collections of freak U.S. cents, Siamese porcelain, Irish gun money, and counterstamped cut money used in Central and South America in the middle 17th century. T. F. Barry, visitor, displayed a medal commemorating the pine tree shilling.

Earl A. Parker, San Francisco, made an interesting talk on the coins and tokens of Hawaii during the 44th club meeting at the DeAnza Hotel, July 10. Among the coins mentioned were the copper cent of 1847, issued for Hawaii by the Boston Missionary Society, and the issue of 10, 25 and 50 cent pieces and dollars coined in San Francisco in 1883 and inscribed with the words,

"The life of the land is in righteousness."

Roy Hill, George Kohl and C. V. Kappen were named program committee, and George Kohl, Roy Hill and G. F. Hodges, county fair committee.

Niels Nielsen, San Jose State College student from Denmark, joined the club. Applications for membership in the ANA were made by Syl C. Tully Jr. and Vincent Guarnera. Charles Knickerbocker applied for membership in the CSNA. The meeting closed with the usual auction.

—George F. Hodges.

Widespread prejudice against the two-dollar bill is one of America's most absurd and costly superstitions. It is absurd because no one has any logical reason for believing the bill is unlucky. The superstition is costly because it not only requires the public to handle millions of extra single bills weekly, but also costs the Bureau of Engraving and Printing some \$3,000,000 a year to manufacture the 300,000,000 one-dollar bills that would not be needed if two-dollar bills were popular.

—Circulated Proof.



Roy Hill and George F. Hodges take their turn in the exhibit booth of the San Jose Coin Club at the Santa Clara County Fair. Second largest county fair and third largest fair in the state, it was attended this year by more than 191,000 persons.

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

411	KNICKERBOCKER, Charles E.	295 Tully Road, San Jose, Calif.
413	PANOSH, Mrs. L. C.	4320 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.
412	WILKINSON, Alfred E.	2538B Seabright, Long Beach, Calif.
410	YRIBARNE, John C.	311 Cerritos, Long Beach 7, Calif.

ADDRESS CHANGES

208	KABEALO, S. J.	2216 E. Colorado, Pasadena 8, Calif.
359	KALE, Kathleen	10822 Huston St., North Hollywood, Calif.
246	McCORMAC, Mrs. May	2216 E. Colorado, Pasadena 8, Calif.
150	WILSON, R. A. Sr.	Box 11655 Wagner Sta., Los Angeles 47, Calif.
51	WRIGHT, Miss Marie E.	Moved, No Address Given

DECEASED

95	BUDD, Harold M.	928 Muirfield Rd., Los Angeles 6, Calif.
168	POWERS, George A.	408 S. Pomona, Brea, Calif.

DELINQUENT DUES

Thirty-eight members have failed to send in their dues for 1950. Statements with their cards for this year and second statements have been sent to them. They have been carried on the rolls, and will be for the remainder of this year. They have received the bulletin and all notices.

As of Dec. 31, all those who have failed to send in their dues will be removed from the mailing list.

There are some who have just forgotten or neglected to send in their checks. If you are one of those, or if there is some doubt in your mind as to whether you have paid your 1950 dues, the secretary will be glad to advise you of your status.

QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

Ninety-nine replies to the questionnaire were received, roughly one-third of the membership, a good return for that sort of thing. The results listed below speak for themselves.

1.	Do you favor semi-annual conventions as at present? Annual? Some other method?	
	Semi-annual	51
	Annual	40
	Other	4
2.	Which of the following should conventions feature: Auctions? Displays? Bourse? Numismatic Programs? Banquet? Luncheon? Entertainment? Other?	
	Auctions	72
	Displays	90
	Bourse	76
	Numismatic Programs	69
	Banquet	57
	Luncheon	36
	Entertainment	33
	Other	13
	(Scattered Comments)	
3.	Should displays be judged by a committee? Vote of Members?	
	Committee	41
	Vote of members	47
4.	Should displays be classified as ancient? foreign? U.S.? Other?	
	Ancient	70
	Foreign	73
	U. S.	78
	Other — Currency, 7; Unique, Unusual, etc., 6. (Many others suggested.)	
5.	Should the bulletin be continued in its present form?	
	Yes	90
	No	1
6.	If the present form, should added cost be met by reducing size? Reducing number of issues? Accepting ads? Increasing dues? Making conventions revenue-producing? Other?	
	Reducing size	3
	Reducing number of issues	14
	Accept ads	63
	Increase dues	17
	Make conventions revenue-producing	43
	Other (scattered)	7
7.	If it were possible to work out such a plan, would you favor having joint local club-state association membership?	
	Yes	57
	No	23
	No comment	3

Roman Coins Give Most Complete History

By THOMAS W. WARD, *Fallbrook*

It often has been said that every coin tells a story; this, of course, is true. But ancient Roman coins tell longer, more complete and varied stories than those of any other series.

Roman coin design and fabric parallel the history of one of the greatest empires the world ever has known—one that began as a poor feeble little settlement of farmers and herdsmen surrounded on all sides by powerful enemies, and yet eventually ruled practically all of the civilized world.

Whatever reasons you have for collecting coins, the same reasons will apply to Roman coins, and in most cases with more force.

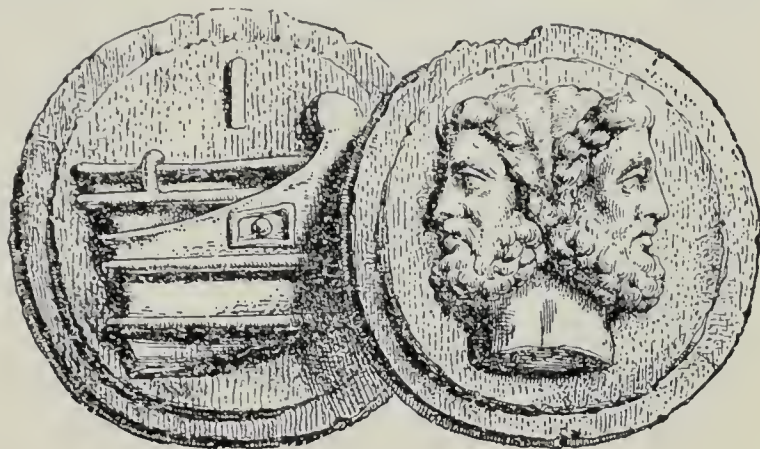
If you collect coins because of their age, Roman coins go back over 2000 years. If you collect coins because of their beauty of art and execution, the portraiture on Roman coins never has been surpassed, even by the Greeks at their best period. If you prefer crude and barbarous coins, Rome struck that kind, too.

If you are interested in history as shown on coins, there is no other series that shows so many historical references as the Roman. If you are interested in religion as coins show it, all of the great gods and most of the minor ones appear on Roman coins, as portraits, in full length, and engaged in divine activities. So do many mythological characters and mythological monsters. And on late Imperial coins, Christian emblems begin to appear.

If you are interested in economics, the coinage of Rome is a running commentary on economics over many centuries; it is good or bad as conditions in the Empire were good or bad, and primitive or refined as the Romans were primitive or refined.

In these days of high prices there is another reason for collecting Roman coins. They do not cost much. Compared to that other great ancient

series, the Greek, prices are low. Many fine specimens are obtainable for a dollar or less; in the case of the Imperial "third bronze" which



Aes Grave, used in Rome and Central Italy 311-276 B.C. Obv.: Double Head of Janus; Rev.: Prow of galley. Made of bronze, these pieces were cast, not struck. —Cut courtesy E. A. Parker, San Francisco.

average about the size of a nickel, fine specimens sometimes can be obtained for only a few cents. Of course there are many high priced rarities; but even so, one could form a respectable collection of Roman coins without paying more than 50 cents for each piece.

Many other reasons might be given. For instance, in Roman coins we have a series that exists in no other group. That is, a complete series of coins from the most primitive rough east bronze pieces up through finely designed and executed coins, and then a gradual decline as the coins become worse and worse, until final extinction.

This parallels the history of Rome. As Rome waxed and waned, so did the coinage. When Rome was a nation of simple men with simple tastes, the coinage, appropriately enough, was crude and primitive; this condition is found in the first Roman coins.

Prior to the issue of any coinage at all, the Romans had used bronze as a medium of exchange; it passed from hand to hand in the form of

rough lumps, bars, rings, and so on. It had to be weighed out for each transaction. With increasing trade, this became awkward, so the Romans hit upon the idea of casting round pieces of standard size and weight—and these were the first true coins. The unit was the as, weighing one pound, together with fractions such as the half, third, and so on. These coins were in effect simply the same bronze medium previously used, but now in a more convenient form.

It is remarkable that the Romans should have issued such a crude



DENARIUS OF BRUTUS

Commemorating Ides of March

coinage. For centuries previously the Greeks had been using very fine coins and the Romans were thoroughly familiar with them; normally they had no hesitation about adapting someone else's good ideas to their own use, but in this case they paid no attention to precedent, and began their coinage just a short step above the barter stage.

Life gradually became more refined, foreign trade developed, and Rome embarked on a career of conquest. These crude bronze coins were then no longer adequate for new needs. The foreign nations with which Rome came in contact demanded a silver coinage, so one was begun in 269 B.C. At first rather crude, these silver coins improved until by the close of the Republic in 27 B.C., some nice pieces were produced.

By the beginning of the Empire then, the coin workmanship was of a high standard, and under the early emperors it improved until it reached its highest point. Under these first emperors the Empire reached a high stage, and the coins show it. The early portraits are beautiful, of a quality never excelled. Under later emperors the Empire slowly declined, and the coins declined along with it. The art work remains fairly good

until the end of the reign of Philip I in 249. But things became worse—and so did the coinage—until by the beginning of the fourth century the portraits become so conventionalized that all the emperors look about the same on their coins. Bad times for Rome resulted in bad coinage.

The reign of the Emperor Gallienus (253-268) was about the lowest point in Roman history before the final fall of Rome; it was a period of all kinds of domestic and foreign disturbances: war, plague, famine, rebellion, financial breakdown, and almost every form of hardship which can afflict a nation. Therefore, the coins of this ruler are very poor—about the poorest Rome ever produced. They are crude to the point of barbarism, and debased to the point of worthlessness.

Later emperors tried from time to time to improve the nation—and the coinage—but such improvements always were only temporary, and the decline was general. By the beginning of the fifth century when Rome was on the point of final collapse, the coin portraits had degenerated to hardly more than crude drawings of little relief. And after the fall of Rome the coins struck in Constantinople became even worse; the portraits no longer look even human, but resemble cartoons or rough sketches such as a child might draw.

With a few exceptions, it was the custom of the Roman emperors to show on their coins either their own portraits or those of a member of their family, with their own portraits in the great majority. Thus, Imperial coins show a picture gallery of all the emperors, the good and able men as well as the wastrels and incompetents. Occasionally an emperor struck coins with portraits of illustrious predecessors, Augustus being the one chiefly honored this way.

Some imperial characters are known only from their coins. The Empress Paulina is an example; nothing is known about her, but her coins exist. The same thing is true of some of the rebel emperors of the third century; we know little or nothing about them, excepting for the coins. Of one obscure emperor, Marius, we know only that he was an armorer who became emperor in Gaul, and that he ruled for only three days when he was murdered—but even during those three days he managed to strike coins. So it seems

that the coinage must have been the first thing that a new emperor gave his attention.

I have mentioned portraits of members of Imperial families. Augustus struck coins showing his grandsons Caius and Lucius who were destined to succeed him, but died young. He also struck the portraits of his great general and admirer, Agrippa. Caligula struck coins bearing the portrait of his mother, Agrippina I. Claudius honored his father Drusus I and his mother Antonia on his coins. Elagabalus even carried it to the extreme of showing his grandmother, Julia Maesa. Most emperors showed their wives on coins.

As I wish mainly to point out a few facts about Roman Republican coins, I will say no more about the Imperial series.

To return to the antiquity of Roman coins, they do not go so far back as those of Greece. It is not known definitely when the first Roman coin was made. Originally it was believed to have been during the times of the kings, which would make it prior to 509 B.C. Later study modified this date to about 450 B.C., and now many modern students set the date at about 312 B.C. There is nothing on the earliest coins to indicate a date, and the literary evidence is conflicting and unsatisfactory. A passage in Pliny definitely would assign the bronze coins to the times of the kings.

Regardless of the exact date when



DENARIUS OF TIBERIUS
14-37 A.D.

these first cast bronze coins were made, they were in use at the time of the Pyrrhic War (280-278 B.C.). And that war had its effect on the coinage. The one pound as had already declined somewhat in weight, possibly as a matter of convenience, but the war cut its weight still more.

Faced with great war expenses, the Romans made the coins much smaller, thus making more money from the same amount of material. Once reductions were started, they kept on. The as was reduced to a half pound, then to two ounces, then to an ounce, and finally to a half ounce, when it went out of circulation completely. These reductions were spread out over many years, although the first ones were abrupt.

The first silver coinage begun in 269 B.C. was somewhat on the Greek model; in this case the Romans did not ignore a good example. The unit, the denarius, was valued at ten asses and is about the size of our dime. A half denarius or quinarius and a quarter denarius or sestertius also were struck. Most of the early silver pieces cannot be attributed to a certain year, as they bear no identifying marks. They all are of the same design; the helmeted head of Roma on the obverse and Castor and Pollux on horseback on the reverse, the only inscription being the word ROMA. However, it is possible to date them approximately.

After a few years some coiners began placing emblems or symbols on their coins. These usually were on the reverse and consisted of small objects, such as a dog or other animal, a dolphin, star, or anchor. We do not know the meanings of very many of these, but obviously they are control marks of some kind; they may be mint marks, or they may serve to identify certain issues or dies. Some of them may indicate the names of the coiners, as at a later period some certainly do. Presently the coiners began placing their initials on coins either with or without the symbols; and with these initials we begin to get clues as to the names of the strikers. Later, the initials are succeeded by abbreviated names, at first in very short abbreviations but becoming longer until practically the whole name of the coiner is shown. On these we can identify the coiner and so date the coin.

The original designs — Roma on the obverse and Castor and Pollux on the reverse — persisted for about a century, but eventually changes began. The first major change was in the reverse design, and Castor and Pollux were replaced by Diana in a chariot. There was a sound political

reason for this change. The original design celebrated the Roman victory over the Latin League at the Battle of Lake Regillus in 498 B.C. According to legend, the Romans were losing this battle, when Castor and Pollux descended from heaven to fight for Rome, and so turned defeat into victory. Therefore for many years Rome honored them on her coins.

However as time went on, the Latins were no longer enemies of Rome, but became friends and allies, so it was poor taste to continue commemorating their defeat. It would appear that the Diana reverse was deliberately chosen to flatter the Latins, as Diana of Aricia was one of their chief divinities. But despite this, Castor and Pollux appear from time to time for many years.

The next changes that appear are in the charioteers. Other gods and goddesses drive them: Jupiter, Juno Mars, Apollo and others, as well as some semi-divine heroes such as Hercules. The Winged Victory appears as a chariot driver, and by the end of the Republic was the most common of all. Sometimes instead of horses, the chariots are drawn by animals sacred or dedicated to the god, goddess, or hero driving them; Diana sometimes drives stags as she is goddess of the hunt; Juno drives goats, the goat being her animal; Hercules drives Centaurs, the half-man, half-horse creatures with which he was closely associated. An unusual team is a pair of snakes drawing the chariot of Ceres on a late Republican coin.

Radically different reverses next begin. Before describing some of them, it might be well to explain the reasons for the choice of designs. The Roman mint worked under a system which may seem peculiar to us. Each year three men were appointed as coiners or masters of the mint, with authority to strike coins as they saw fit. Each of them was permitted to strike coins with or without the cooperation of the other two. So in some years we find only one man issuing coins; in others two or all three; and some years pass with no coins struck. Of course it is possible that coins actually were struck during these years, but that they have not yet been discovered.

In Rome at that time it was considered bad taste to show a living person on coins — much in line with

our own views in this country — but there was no objection to showing divinities or dead persons. So the coiners, being unable to show themselves or to advertise their own accomplishments on coins, discovered another way of glorifying themselves indirectly. This was to show a reference to the accomplishments of some distinguished ancestors and thus praise their family, and incidentally themselves.

As an example, a coiner in 114 B.C. was named Minucius. An ancestor of the same name once supplied Rome with grain during a critical time of threatened famine, and the grateful citizens erected a monument to him, each man contributing one ounce of bronze toward the project. So Minucius the coiner struck a reverse showing this monument with the earlier Minucius standing beside it, thus basking in reflected glory.

Cassius was a coiner in 54 B.C. A previous Cassius had reformed the voting laws, so this Cassius shows on a reverse a citizen casting a ballot. One of his colleagues that year was Paullus Aemilius, a descendant of the Aemilius who defeated and captured Perseus, King of Macedonia; therefore his reverse shows Perseus and his sons as Roman prisoners.

The third coiner in 54 B.C. was Aquilius. An earlier Aquilius had suppressed a very serious slave insurrection in Sicily, so the coiner's reverse shows that general raising a kneeling woman representing Sicily. He even placed the word SICIL below the picture, so the reference would be sure to be understood. A curious reference to an ancestor is found on the coins of Antestius Labeo in 174 B.C. It is in the form of a small dog, one of the symbols previously mentioned; and in this case, we definitely know its meaning. One of the coiner's ancestors was a sailor; his ship came too close to the shore one night, but was warned away through the crew's hearing the barking of a dog. So the coiner honored the dog which saved his ancestor and his ship.

After the death of Caesar, Brutus placed his ancestor, the first Brutus, expeller of the kings, on his coins. But by that time the sentiment against portraits of living persons had passed, and so Brutus, like many of his contemporaries, sometimes placed his own portrait on his coins.

The event in which the coiner's ancestor was involved did not even have to be historical; it could be legendary or even mythological. In 129 B.C. Fostulus struck a reverse showing Romulus and Remus under the wolf and being discovered by the Fostulus whom the coiner claimed as an ancestor. In the same way Accoleius in 43 B.C. struck a coin with the theoretical portrait of Acca Larentia, the foster mother of Romulus and Remus and supposedly his own ancestor.

Sometimes descent was claimed from a god or goddess, and then that god or goddess is featured on the coins. The most prominent example is the case of Julius Caesar who claimed descent from Venus through Aeneas. Therefore he placed Venus on many of his coins and Aeneas on some of them. Of course a man with the practical sense of Caesar probably didn't believe his own claims, but anyway it was good propaganda.

These few examples will show how the mentality of the Roman coiners worked, and how the tremendous variety of coin designs came about. The coiners had the whole history, tradition, and religion of Rome to draw on. Hundreds of other ancestral references might be mentioned.

But not all Roman Republican coins have ancestral references; many refer to general Roman interests — although even here there may be ancestral references which we cannot detect but which were plain to the Romans. Historical and legendary references are very common. Castor and Pollux have been mentioned. Other traditions shown on coins are the abduction of the Sabine women, the death of the traitress Tarpeia, and many others. Many coins show buildings or other structures long gone; the coins are the only representations of them which exist. Examples are the Villa Publica where ambassadors were received, the temple to Julius Caesar erected on the spot where his body was burned, the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, and a host of other temples.

The Marcian Aqueduct is shown, and so is the Rostrum with its decoration of prows of ships captured at Antium — the modern Anzio where the American forces landed in Italy. I might point out that this is where our word "rostrum" originates; "ros-

trum" is the Latin word for "beak" and therefore was applied to the prow of a war ship. When the prows of the Antiatic ships were set up at the Tribunal or speaker's platform in the Forum, the name gradually became transferred to the platform itself.

Statues are numerous on Roman coins. The monument to Minucius has been mentioned. Additional examples are the statues of Marsyas, Venus Cloacina, Marcius Philippus, Roma, and others. Roman paintings have perished with the exception of some murals preserved at Pompeii and Ostia, but at least one remains on a coin reverse. The Elder Pliny mentions one of Aurora leading the sun horses, and we find this on a coin of Plautius Plancus struck in 45 B.C.

Religion is strong on Roman coins. All of the great gods and goddesses appear, both as portraits and in full length — Jupiter, Juno, Neptune, Venus, Mars, Minerva, and all the rest. In addition to these are representations of the more obscure divine characters, as Mutinus, Vacuna, Fontus, and others. These are old primitive Italian gods who gradually passed into the background before the worship of the great gods. But they kept their followers in rural districts and never were entirely forgotten — and so they also appear on coins. The particular private gods of each Roman household, the Lares and Penates, appear on a number of coins. Each Roman had a guiding spirit, a genius, and this genius, too, is shown.

Many mythological characters appear on coins, with Hercules as the most popular. So do mythological animals and monsters; Pegasus, the Sphinx, Medusa, Scylla, the Calydonian Boar, and the Nemean Lion are just a few of these. Legendary personages such as Romulus and other traditional kings are common.

Even Roman humor is represented on coins, in the form of puns. The Romans were very fond of puns. A coiner named Purpureo (214 B.C.) placed a murex on his coins; this is the purpura or "purple fish" from which purple dye was made. Malleolus means "mallet" and so a coiner of that name placed a mallet on his coins in 89 B.C. Pansa in 43 B.C. used a portrait of Pan for an obverse; Papirius featured a papyrus;

and there are many others such.

All that I have said is very sketchy and incomplete, but no article on Roman coins can be otherwise. The subject simply is too extensive.

With Our Juniors

The Junior Coin Collectors of San Francisco had an interesting meeting in May, with coins of Germany as the subject; John E. Ohls was speaker and gave an interesting account of German coins. No regular exhibit meetings were scheduled for



the summer, but business meetings were held once a month by those members who were in town to lay plans for a week-long

exhibit in honor of their 16th anniversary in October. This will be another presentation of "Coin City," which had its debut 10 years ago at G.G.I.E. on Treasure Island. Coins will be the main part, but members' other hobby interests will be included. The first exhibit meeting of the 1950-1951 season was held Friday, Sept. 15, with San Francisco mint coins and California material as the subject.

The East Bay Junior Coin Collectors opened the 1950-1951 year with an exhibit meeting at the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak St., Oakland, Sept. 22, and from the many names added to the list of young collectors in that area at the Oakland CSNA show, there should be a good nucleus for an interesting year.

The Peninsula Junior Coin Club also was inactive for the summer months, but participated in the hobby exhibit of the San Mateo County Fiesta in September. Regular meetings will be resumed Oct. 6 at the San Mateo Public Library.



Collectors and dealers are invited to give names of young coin collectors in the San Francisco Bay area to Roy Hill, 1140 Sutter St., San Francisco, in order that junior clubs may help them with their hobby.

—Roy Hill, Counselor.

One pound avoirdupois of gold can be drawn into a wire 900 miles long.

Etymology of Money

There was of old, on the Capitoline Hill at Rome, a temple to Juno Moneta. Here money was coined, and hence our words "money" and "mint." One story relates that the Romans, when at war with Pyrrhus, appealed to Juno for aid, and she admonished (monuit) them that so long as they fought in the cause of justice, money should not fail them, hence she received the title Moneta.

In the earliest times, prior to the existence of coins, property appears to have been valued by heads (capita) of cattle, whence our terms capital (applied to money), cattle, and chattels. Afterwards coins representing this value apparently were made with the impress of cattle, and called pecunia, from pecus, cattle. Our word "fee," through German vieh, comes also from the same source (pecus).

One of the early methods of determining value was naturally by weight. The balance was called into use. This word comes not from Greek byrsa, a purse, as might be supposed, but through Italian, bilancia, from Latin, bis, twice, and lances, plates, from the two scales. The word "scale" tells us that they might have been originally shells, German schale meaning both shell and scale); libra, the Latin for balance, gives us French livre; pondus, the Latin for weight, gives us English pound; shilling or skilling (cognate with skill) means a division of the pound.

"Penny" is said by professor Skeat to be connected with "pawm" from Latin pannus, a piece of cloth, which is also akin to the Greek word for the thread on the bobbin in the shuttle. "Farthing" simply indicates the fourth part of a penny.

—F. J. C. Fenton, Caterham,
The Morning Post, London,
Feb. 21, 1890

You can help boost junior coin club activities by helping to sign up new young collectors and also by giving numismatic talks on coins at their meetings. They like to hear about coins and any adult certainly would do a good turn for the future numismatic ranks in his organization by doing a bit of service for the young collectors today.